

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A single-phase topical liquid or semi-solid pharmaceutical composition substantially free of ethanol and water which comprises an ascomycin in a carrier vehicle comprising a 3-component solvent mixture amounting to at least 40 % w/w of the total weight of the composition and consisting of:

- i) a C₃-₈ alkanol, and/or C₁-₈ alkanediol, or mixtures thereof;
- ii) a fatty alcohol; and
- iii) a further solvent selected from:
 - a) an alkane carboxylic acid alkyl ester, and/or alkane dicarboxylic acid alkyl ester, and/or
 - b) a hydrophilic co-component, and/or
 - c) a triglyceride, or mixtures thereof;

and optionally further conventional excipients.

Claim 2. (Original) A composition according to claim 1 wherein the ascomycin is pimecrolimus.

Claim 3. (Currently amended) A composition according to claim 1-~~or~~-2 wherein

- component i)-said C₃-₈ alkanol, C₁-₈ alkanediol, or mixtures thereof is isopropanol, and/or hexylene glycol, or mixtures thereof;
- component ii)-said fatty alcohol is oleyl alcohol; and
- component iii)-said further solvent is:
 - a) diisopropyl adipate, and/or isopropyl myristate, and/or
 - b) dimethyl isosorbide, and/or
 - c) medium-chain triglycerides, or mixtures thereof;

and optionally further conventional excipients.

Claim 4. (Currently amended) A composition according to claim 1-~~or~~-2 comprising further conventional excipients selected from hydroxypropyl cellulose, liquid paraffin, colloidal silicon dioxide, bee wax and hydrogenated castor oil.

Claim 5. (Currently amended) A composition according to claim 1-~~or~~-2 wherein the ascomycin is present in an amount of 1 % to 5 % by weight of the composition.

Claim 6. (Currently amended) A composition according to claim 1-~~or~~-2 which is in the form of a gel, a foam or an ointment!

Claim 7. (Currently amended) A composition according to claim 1-~~or~~-2 for use in the treatment of inflammatory and hyperproliferative skin diseases and of cutaneous manifestations of immunologically-mediated diseases.

Claim 8. (Currently amended) A method for treating inflammatory and hyperproliferative skin diseases or cutaneous manifestations of immunologically-mediated diseases comprising administering a composition according to claim 1-~~or~~-2 to the skin of a patient in need thereof.

Claim 9. (Currently amended) Use of a composition according to claim 1-~~or~~-2 in the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of inflammatory and hyperproliferative skin diseases and of cutaneous manifestations of immunologically-mediated diseases.

Claim 10. (Original) Use of a carrier vehicle as defined in claim 1 to enhance penetration of an ascomycin into human skin, nail or mucosa.